

Child and Family Resources



Important Telephone Numbers

To report child abuse or neglect.....	1-866-EndHarm, or 1-866-363-4276
To become a foster or adoptive parent.....	1-888-794-1794
To resolve concerns about the Children’s Administration or foster care.....	1-800-571-7321
To find help for homeless youth living on the street or other unsafe locations .....	1-877-550-HOPE or 1-877-550-4673
To find child care resources and referrals.....	1-800-446-1114
To find health and human services information through the Washington Information Network .....	211

Websites

Adoption:

Washington Adoption Resource Network.....	www.warekids.org
Northwest Adoption Exchange .....	www.nwae.org
Northwest Resource Associates .....	www.nwresource.org/af.htm
Families Like Ours .....	www.familieslikeours.org
Adopt U.S. Kids.....	www.adoptuskids.org

Child Care:

Licensed Child Care .....	www.del.wa.gov/ccel/index.shtml
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Domestic Violence:

DSHS Domestic Violence Program.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/dvservices/index.asp
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence .....	www.wscadv.org

Foster Parenting:

Children’s Administration Foster Parent Website.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents.index.asp
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Mental Health:

DSHS Mental Health Division.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth
SAMHSA National Mental Health Information Center .....	www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/child

Social Services and Child Welfare:

Children’s Administration Internet .....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/general/index.asp
DSHS Internet .....	www1.dshs.wa.gov
Department of Health and Human Services.....	www.os.dhhs.gov

Substance Abuse:

DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa
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The following summary of the Children's Administration Strategic Plan outlines the broad goals and strategic outcomes the administration is working to achieve. We are identifying our progress in achieving these objectives in a variety of ways, some using outcome data and performance measures, and others using case record reviews and client, stakeholder and employee satisfaction feedback. We are continually working to improve our services and to improve child and family outcomes.

## CHILD SAFETY

- Goal:** Children will be safe from abuse and neglect.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.

## PERMANENCY

- Goal:** Provide stable, nurturing, and permanent placements as quickly as possible for children who are placed into out-of-home care.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- Strategic Outcome:** The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

## CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

- Goal:** Help families and communities improve the well-being of children in their own homes and in out-of-home care.
- Strategic Outcome:** Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational (and developmental) needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

## SUPPORTING CLIENT OUTCOMES

- Goal:** Continuously improve the organization's capacity to achieve excellent outcomes for children and families.
- Strategic Outcome:** The Children's Administration partners with and is responsive to Tribes, consumers, communities, courts and public and private agencies to serve children and families.
- Strategic Outcome:** Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services, and adoption.
- Strategic Outcome:** Service array ensures appropriateness, quality, accessibility and flexibility.
- Strategic Outcome:** Information technology and has capability to support field and management needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Federal requirements for case review system are maintained.
- Strategic Outcome:** Quality assurance system promotes satisfactory outcomes for children and families.
- Strategic Outcome:** Agency has adequate and efficient structure, staffing and fiscal resources.
- Strategic Outcome:** Staff and provider training and development adequately support the goals of the agency.

**Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA):**

Federal legislation passed on November 19, 1997, strengthening Titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act. The ASFA requires more accountability and better efforts and results from state agencies receiving funding, as well as from parents who have children placed in foster care. The law focuses on the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in care, and other positive outcomes.

**Adoption Support:** Financial assistance provided to adoptive parents following the adoption of a special needs child. According to RCW 74.13.109, a child is eligible if that child is “legally free” and “hard to place” at the time the adoption support agreement is established.

**Alternative Response System (ARS):** The CA contracts with agencies to provide ARS services to low risk families. Services help families develop community support systems in an effort to keep families intact without intrusive CPS intervention.

**Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS):** Agency contracted services for behavioral rehabilitation services for children and youth with serious emotional, behavioral, or medical difficulties who cannot be adequately served in regular foster care.

**Braam Foster Care Lawsuit:** A class-action lawsuit filed in 1998 on behalf of 13 children who experienced over 30 placements while in foster care. As part of the lawsuit’s 2004 settlement, an independent Braam Oversight Panel was created to develop outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps for the CA on the six areas identified in the settlement agreement: stable placements, mental health services, foster parent training and support, unsafe or inappropriate placement, separation of siblings when placed in out-of-home care, and services for adolescents.

**Case and Management Information System (CAMIS):** Automated information system for the CA.

**Chafee Foster Care Independence Act:** Federal law passed in 1999 to offer services to adolescents in their transition to adulthood. The CA contracts with community-based agencies to offer outreach, individual assessment and plan development, skill building through instruction, independent living plan reviews, and case management.

**Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA):** Federal legislation providing guidelines for states regarding child protection.

**CA/N:** Child abuse and neglect.

**Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET):** A process that begins when a child is placed in out-of-home care and ends when the child or youth leaves care. A legislatively mandated screening program occurs within the first 30 days of a child’s placement to assess the condition and level of functioning in five life domains: physical/medical, developmental, educational, emotional/behavioral and connections. A child’s strengths and needs

are identified and monitored every 6 months through Share Planning Meetings and the ISSP.

**Child in Need of Services (CHINS):** A part of the state’s Family Reconciliation Act, RCW 13.32A., addressing children over the age of twelve who are beyond the control of their parents, have run away, and have substance-abuse or other at-risk behavior, or whose parents are unable, unwilling or unsuccessful in providing for their basic needs.

**Child and Family Services Review (CFSR):** The federal review of every state child welfare system which evaluates the service provision and achievement of safety, permanency, and well-being for children.

**Child Protective Services (CPS):** Entity within the Field Services Division, Child and Family Services and Licensed Resources, which responds to reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and provides services and/or placement if warranted.

**Child Welfare Services (CWS):** Entity within the Field Services Division, Child and Family Services, which provides appropriate out-of-home placement, adoption, and ancillary services to children and families.

**Children’s Administration (CA):** One of the administrations under the umbrella organization Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The CA is composed of four divisions: Program and Practice Improvement, Finance and Operations Support, Field Services, and Technology Services. The CA is responsible for a full continuum of services in Washington State and administers Child Protective (CPS), Child Welfare (CWS), Family Reconciliation (FRS), and licensing services throughout the state.

**Crisis Residential Centers (CRC):** Facilities available for short-term placement of children 12 years and older. These are often used for children who run away or are in conflict with their families.

**Custodian:** A person appointed by the parent, guardian, or court to provide care for a child.

**Division of Licensed Resources (DLR):** In July 2004, the DLR became part of the Field Services Division. It is charged with the licensure and oversight of state licensed foster homes, group homes, and other child placement facilities, and is responsible for investigation of allegations of abuse and neglect in licensed care.

**Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS):** In July 2004, DCFS became part of the Field Services Division. It is responsible for child protection, placement, and adoption services administered through 44 field offices in six regions throughout Washington State.

**Early Intervention Program:** Trained public health nurses are available to provide voluntary in-home nursing services which can prevent the need for more intrusive interventions in at-risk families with young children.

**Family Preservation Services (FPS):** Provided to families whose children face substantial risk of out-of-home placement (per RCW 74.14C), FPS draws on the strengths of families and addresses needs in an effort to keep the family intact.

**Family Reconciliation Services (FRS):** Available to families with adolescents who are experiencing conflicts, FRS consists of services devoted to maintaining the family as a unit and preventing out-of-home placement.

**Guardian:** A person or agency appointed by the court to care for and supervise a child, and who has legal rights to the custody of that child.

**Guardianship:** A permanency option that provides a child with long-term connection to a family while maintaining financial supports for the child. Guardianship placements are often preferred for older youth who may not want to be adopted, children who maintain ongoing and frequent contact with their parents, and children for whom religious or cultural factors discourage termination of parental rights or adoption.

**Independent Living Services (ILS):** Services provided, in accordance with the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, to youth in the foster care system to help prepare them for independence.

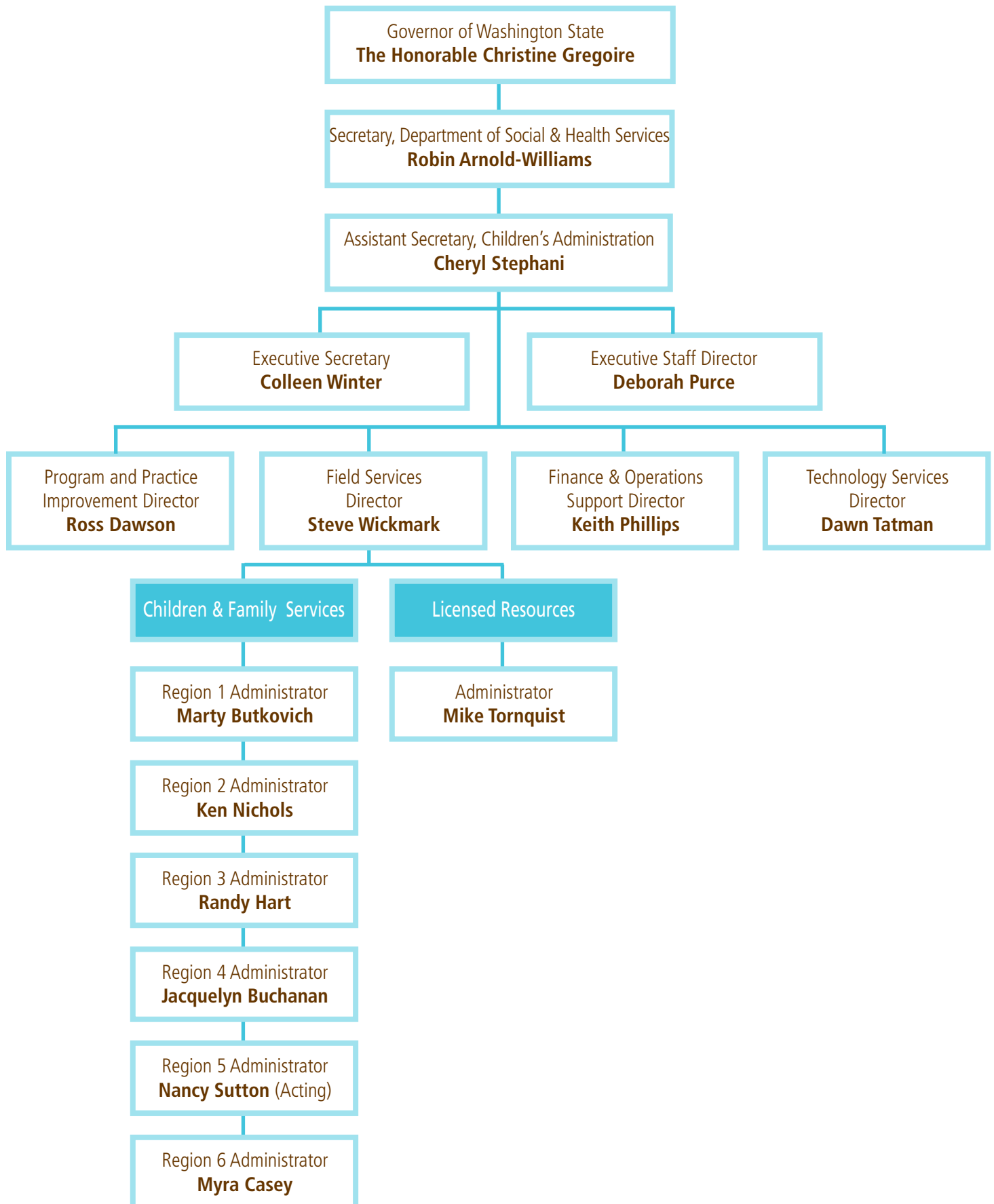
**Indian Child Welfare Services (ICW):** Child welfare services provided to Indian children consistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in areas of child protective services, foster care, dependency guardianship, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings.

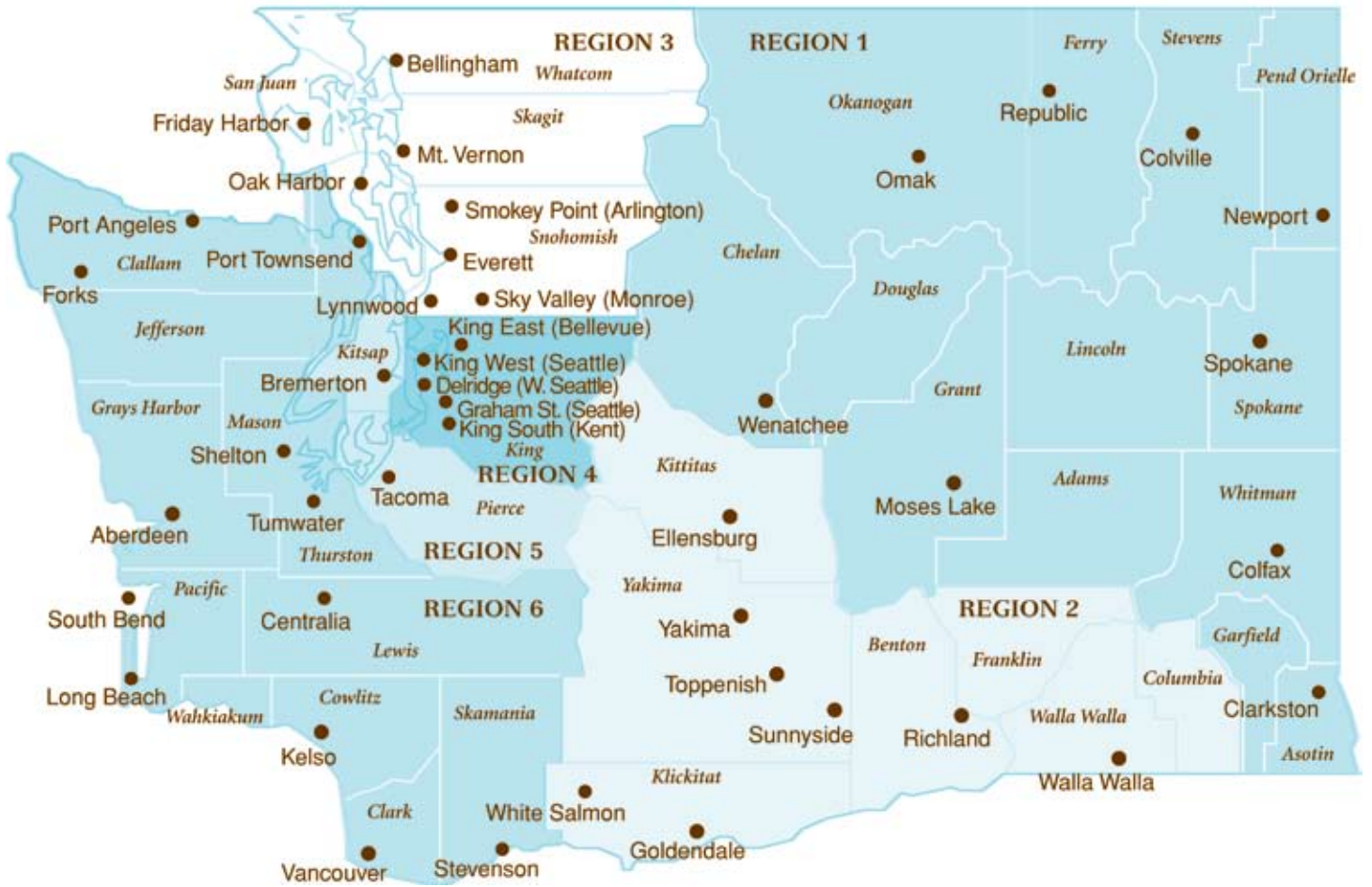
**Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC):** A statutorily established mandate (RCW 26.34) safety net for children being placed into or out of Washington State.

**Legally Free:** A child is legally free for adoption if the child has no legal parent, either because the parent has died or because parental rights have been terminated through relinquishment or involuntary termination by court order.

**Out-of-home placement/out-of-home care:** Placement of a child by the CA into a foster family home, relative placement, or group care facility.

**Termination of Parental Rights (TPR):** When a child cannot return home and adoption is the permanent plan for that child, parental rights are terminated. The Adoption and Safe Families Act requires states to terminate parental rights when a child has been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months unless there are compelling reasons not to file for termination of parental rights.





● Field Offices  
*Counties*  
**REGIONS**

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National Center  
for Civic  
Innovation



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